

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1055

By Pinion

A RESOLUTION relative to a pilot performance based maintenance project for Tennessee's transportation system.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has enjoyed a national reputation as having some of the best roadways in the country; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, like many states throughout the country today, is facing difficult challenges with transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation currently maintains approximately 14,000 miles of roadway in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, these state-maintained roads carry approximately 75% of all the vehicular traffic within the State; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee recognizes the importance for tourism and economic development of a vital transportation system of well maintained roads throughout the entire State; and

WHEREAS, vehicle miles traveled on our roadways in Tennessee continue to increase at a time when budgetary constraints are making it more and more difficult to keep up with the overwhelming needs of our traveling public; and

WHEREAS, as vehicle miles traveled continue to increase in Tennessee, considerable strain is being placed upon the current budgetary capacity; and

WHEREAS, these budgetary issues make it increasingly difficult to preserve and maintain our vital infrastructure assets at historical levels of service; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is attempting to meet these challenges, and during these challenging times, it is imperative that all avenues for innovation and improvements are explored to the fullest extent; and

WHEREAS, at least six states, including Florida, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Alaska, and Maryland, are currently conducting programs in their states to utilize more of an asset management approach to maintaining their transportation assets; and

WHEREAS, several other states, including Georgia, South Carolina, and Missouri, are currently in the process of considering pilot maintenance asset management projects in order to explore every alternative to maintain their highways better; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the State of Florida Department of Transportation has conducted an asset management program for maintenance over the last seven years that is generating an estimated cost savings of 17%, while the level of service has been maintained and/or improved; and

WHEREAS, the State of Virginia Department of Transportation has had an asset management program for maintenance in place for over ten years and is continuing to expand the program because of its successful operations; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is committed to looking at all new and innovative means possible to save tax dollars, while at the same time providing a high level of service to the citizens of our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby requests the Department of Transportation to proceed with the initiation in 2008 of a pilot performance based maintenance project in the location the Department deems most feasible in order to determine the potential benefit of such management approach for the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.